



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CIVIL RIGHTS ICON REV. JAMES LAWSON AND CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCATES  
CALL FOR SUPERVISORS TO SUPPORT THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT**

On the eve of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic March on Washington, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will vote on whether to support federal legislation that strengthens the Voting Rights Act's protections. Testifying before the board will be locally and nationally recognized civil rights advocates.

**Who:** **Rev. James Lawson**, lading tactician of the civil rights movement and close colleague of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
**Thomas Saenz**, president and general counsel **Mexican American Legal Defense Fund**.  
**Raphael J. Sonenshein**, executive director, **Pat Brown Institute**, **CSULA**, **Los Angeles**  
**Eugene Lee**, voting rights project director of **Asian Americans Advancing Justice**  
**Lola Ungar**, vice president, **League of Women Voters**  
**Rick Davis**, regional director, **Lambda Legal**  
**Virginia Lee**, the **Advancement Project**.

**When:** Tuesday, August 27, 11 a.m.

**Where:** Board of Supervisors meeting room  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**What:** The Rev. James Lawson, who worked beside Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights era and taught the principles of nonviolent direct action to student leaders such as Congressman John Lewis, will testify before the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors along with noted local leaders of the civil rights legal community on the importance of the Voting Rights Act, protecting the right to vote and on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the March on Washington.